

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 INT-08 DRC-01

/084 W

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R 220830Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7946

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, PK

SUBJECT: "IRON ORE" DISCOVERIES IN SIND NEAR THANO
BULLA KHAN

1. KARACHI PRESS DURING FEB AND MARCH HAS CARRIED NUMBER REPORTS CONCERNING DISCOVERY "HIGH GRADE IRON ORE DEPOSITS" NEAR VILLAGE OF THANO BULLA KHAN SOME 90 MILES NORTHEAST OF KARACHI. MOST RECENT ARTICLE, CONTAINED KARACHI DAWN MARCH 19, REPORTED EXTENSIVE DEPOSITS WITH FERROUS CONTENT OF ORE AT 59.4 PERCENT, AND STATED QUALITY OF ORE BETTER THAN THAT TO BE IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA FOR SOVIET STEEL MILL. SOME SENIOR WPIDC OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASM OVER NEW IRON ORE DEPOSIT TO CONGENOFF.

2. DURING CHECK ON ACCURACY ABOVE REPORTS WITH SENIOR WPIDC GEOLOGIST, DPO WAS INFORMED THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS BASED ON INFORMATION OF NON-PROFESSIONALS, AND WERE BOTH MISLEADING AND CONFUSING. ACCORDING GEOLOGIST, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THANO BULLA KHAN SITE, DEPOSITS IN QUESTION ARE INHYACT OF LOW GRADE LATERITE WITH AVERAGE FERROUS CONTENT OF ONLY 20 PERCENT. ONLY SELECTED BOULDERS

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TESTED OUT AT 59 PERCENT AS REPORTED PRESS. MOREOVER, DEPOSITS,

ALTHOUGH EXTENDING OVER FAIRLY WIDE AREA, ONLY FEW INCHES TO SIX FEET IN DEPTH, AND NOT LIKELY YIELD MORE THAN FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS "ORE".

3. COMMENT: LATERITE OF THIS QUALITY NOT CONSIDERED AS IRON ORE BY WPIDC AND IS APPRECIABLY LOWER IN FERROUS CONTENT THAN LARGE RESERVES OF LOW GRADE ORE ALREADY PROVED OUT AT KALABAGH AND ELSEWHERE. WPIDC BELIEVES COPPER DEPOSITS IN BALUCHISTAN NOW UNDER EXPLORATION BY WPIDC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY OF PAKISTAN OF MUCH GREATER POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE.

4. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS WITH MORE DETAILS CONCERNING RECENT MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES.
TIGER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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